

CABINET

Date of Meeting: 4 January 2024

Title of Report: Review of CCTV Service

Report of: Executive Director – Communities

Cabinet Portfolio: Community Safety and Development Management

Key Decision: No

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1** To share with the Cabinet Members the outcomes and action plan from the recently undertaken CCTV Review, for Members to note.
- 2** Members are also asked to approve the request for capital and revenue budget allocations.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

- 3** That a budget of £75k is allocated to the council's capital programme over a 5-year period commencing in 2024/25 to fund the continuing replacement of the Council's CCTV camera stock.
- 4** That the actions outlined in the CCTV Review (Appendix A – Section 7) are noted and agreed and a revenue budget of £10k is allocated for any follow-on work required, particularly in relation to possible relocation of any existing camera assets.
- 5** That approval is given to extend the contract currently in place with the Safer Runnymede by a further 5 years, subject to procurement processes.
- 6** That a budget of £6k is allocated to the council's capital programme to purchase a deployable CCTV camera asset, subject to officers' evaluation and finding, and agreeing consent from the Portfolio Holder.
- 7** That £3.5k of annual revenue is allocated to cover costs associated for any additional call-out fees, which fall outside of the Routine Planned Maintenance (RPM). This will be utilised for identified Hot Spot cameras on the fixed CCTV network (£1.5k) and to cover the data connectivity (£1k) and installation/deinstallation costs incurred (£1k) for a deployable asset, dependent upon the decision taken regarding paragraph 6 above.

BACKGROUND

- 8** Officers have carried out a comprehensive review of CCTV provision, which concluded that the move to Runnymede Borough Council (RuBC) has been advantageous to Hart District Council. The camera provision is of a high quality, providing a service that is robust and fit for purpose.

- 9 Now the system is running well, this high standard of service needs to be maintained. There are several recommendations in this report that will enable officers to ensure this.
- 10 The recent CCTV Review (Appendix A) carried out by officers, produced an Action Plan (Section 7) detailing further work needed to ensure Hart's CCTV system is both fully compliant with recommendations of the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as well as being as effective as possible in line with reported crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) data available. A separate O&S Task and Finish Subgroup Report was also undertaken and discussed at O&S.
- 11 Both reports highlighted the need for further capital allocation to fund the continued programme of system upgrades by replacing older camera assets as well as upgrading remaining analogue transmission. Costs of upgrading the analogue transmission lines are not yet known and a further request for funding will have to be put forward once this has been ascertained.
- 12 The current CCTV capital budget for replacement assets was agreed by Cabinet back in 2020. It was agreed that the annual capital budget would be set to £15,000 annually for 3 years. The ongoing capital budget, past 2023 is not currently agreed, and funds needs to be allocated.
- 13 The move to RuBC for the provision of CCTV support is reflected positively and consideration of continuity of this service which includes comprehensive maintenance support would continue to bring further benefits.

COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 14 Members were pleased to see the synergy between the Task & Finish Group and Officer Reviews and recognised the improvement to the service since the move to RuBC which will require continued investment (capital for assets and revenue for maintenance) as well as Officer monitoring to maintain the high standard of service operability and provision.
- 15 KPIs were discussed at length and whilst all acknowledged that a KPI which gave a clear link between CCTV footage provision and prosecutions would be of great benefit to show the value of the service, this information is not readily or easily available due to the timeframes and complexities of prosecution cases getting to court. Officers will however continue to engage with Police to encourage their usage of the system and to share relevant information on prosecutions where it is possible to do so.
- 16 There were similar budget allocation recommendations from both reports, differing only in amounts being requested and timeframes for completion of the upgrade programme across our camera assets. Both felt that a deployable camera resource would be of benefit.
- 17 To note, the Task & Finish Group recommended that an independent review be undertaken as to whether there is a need to reassign some of the cameras

to different locations which is already included in the Action Plan (Appendix A - Section 7) in the Officer Review.

MAIN ISSUES

- 18** The principal issue is that there is no capital funding allocated to the upgrade of camera assets beyond the financial year 2023/2024 and no additional revenue funding allocated beyond the contract commitment. To maintain the current level of service and maintenance, the council will need to continue to invest in the service.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 19** The alternative option to investing in the system, is to decide not to do so. Discontinuing a programme of camera asset replacement will result in increasing points of service failure and reduced provision of support. This is not a position that the council wants to move to, having upgraded the system and the service after the move to RuBC in March 2023.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Relevance to the Corporate Plan

- 20** Having an effective CCTV system in place helps to ensure that Hart is a great place to live and work and contributes to the building of a resilient council where we provide the best customer service.

Service Plan

Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan?	Yes
Is the proposal being funded from current budgets?	No
Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal?	Yes

- 21** Staffing resources have been identified to carry out the actions resulting from the CCTV Review and to manage the procurement and installation of upgrade cameras, but the capital and revenue budgets are yet to be secured for any rolling replacement programme or additional maintenance support.

Legal and Constitutional Issues

- 22** None arising directly from this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 23** The CCTV Review has provided an evidence base for investing in CCTV assets moving forward. The financial implications include a £75k capital investment over the next five years, £1.5k revenue commitment for any maintenance requirements that fall outside of RPM for Hot Spot cameras, £6k

for a deployable camera asset, £2k for ongoing revenue costs associated with a deployable camera asset and a further revenue allocation of £10k for any follow-on work required, particularly in relation to possible relocation of any existing camera assets.

- 24** There are no additional staffing resource requirements.

Risk Management

- 25** There is an increased risk of ASB and crime going undetected where public space areas identified as requiring CCTV coverage have decreased surveillance.

- 26** CCTV in public space areas also has a deterrent value so there is risk of reputational damage should the CCTV system in place not be effectively maintained and supported.

EQUALITIES

- 27** Upgrading of existing cameras and/or obtaining a deployable camera would create neutral or positive impacts on all protected groups and as such a full EqIA is not needed.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 28** No substantial direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

ACTION

- 29** Subject to agreement by Cabinet, capital and revenue budget allocations will be made and actions as outlined in the CCTV Review (Appendix A – Section 7) will be commenced and included in the Service Plan for 2024-25.

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Appendices

CCTV Review